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SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" May I know from the Hon. the Minister for Finance whether Vanniyakulakshatriyas belonging to the criminal tribes live in any other districts than the districts mentioned also and whether they are entitled to this concession."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" My information is that they do not live in any other districts."

Leprosy Research Institute in the State

* 1222 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan): Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether any leprosy research centre has been opened in the State?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir, a Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute has been established at Chingleput by the Government of India with effect from 5th January 1955."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that leprosy is particularly fond of the people of South Arcot, will the Government be pleased to open an additional centre in the South Arcot?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We have got a very big leprosy sanatorium at Tirumani near Chingleput and it is in fact the biggest institution in the whole of India. It is best suited for being developed into a research and teaching institution."

Fall in price of tapioca

* 1223 *Q.*—SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any report from the concerned district officers or any representations from the public regarding the abnormal fall during recent months in the price of tapioca and tapioca products in the State, particularly in Malabar and Salem districts;

(*b*) whether the Government have made any enquiries into the causes of such fall; and

(*c*) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Government have received a report from the State Marketing Officer, Madras, and the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) about the fall in prices of tapioca and tapioca products in Kozhikode and Salem markets."

" (*b*) Yes, Sir. The fall in prices was due to the fall in the off take of tapioca products in North Indian markets, as a result of the freezing of stocks of Salem sago globules by the Calcutta Corporation and to the difficulty with the railways over the concessional rates applicable to the tapioca globules.

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" (c) (i) Madras Government have recommended to the Govern ment of India to allow exports of small quantity of tapioca products to foreign countries during the year 1955."

(ii) The Government of India have been requested to provide additional wagon facilities at favourable rates for quick movements to the consumption centres.

(iii) As regards seizure of sago (tapioca globules) by the Calcutta Corporation, both the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal were addressed in the matter."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" Have the Government examined the possibility of manufacturing starch from tapioca for the use of textile mills? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Have the Government received any reply from the Central Government to the representations made to them? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" About the difficulty that arose, our Chief Minister, when he was recently in Delhi, had a talk with the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the West Bengal Chief Minister has agreed to consider the situation favourably."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" There were proposals for making synthetic rice from tapioca. I believe the Government had some scheme to open a factory for this purpose. Is there any such proposal now? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Now that we have sufficient natural rice, we need not be very much worried about synthetic rice."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" இந்தத தொழில் பாதிக்கப்பட்டு ஏற்கெனவே 15 பாக்டரிகள் மேலும் மூடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இன்னும் மூடும் தருவாயில் இருச்கிறது. இந்தத் தொழிலை அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்கு சர்க்கார் என்ன நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறது ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" இந்தத் தொழிலை எந்தெந்த வகையிலே அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்கு கவனம் செலுத்த முடியுமோ அந்தந்த வகையிலே சர்க்கார் கவனம் செலுத்துகிறது."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" இந்த ராஜ்யத்திலிருக்கும் குச்சிக் கிழங்கிலுள்ள ஜவ்வரிசி மட்டமானது என்று இதர மாகாணங்களில் பிரசாரம் நடந்துவருகிறது. ஆதலால் இவைகளை சரியானபடி பரிசீலித்து தக்க நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பார்களா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I think I said yesterday that the Government have referred the matter to the Food Research Institute for certain examination and certain conclusions that we expect from them."